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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,912	02/04/2004	Scott Douglas Wood	H680129.0001US0	3482

1200 7590 01/03/2007
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HOUSTON, TX 77002

EXAMINER

SMITH, PAUL B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,912

Applicant(s)

WOOD, SCOTT DOUGLAS

Examiner

Paul B. Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-2, 4, and 9-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn ('099) in view of Cocanower ('167).

5. Quinn discloses a feeding catheter (6) that comprises a first lumen (138), a second lumen (137), and a third lumen (143). Said first lumen terminates at the

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insertion end of the feeding catheter. Said second and third lumen terminates between the insertion and the external end. Second lumen and third lumen are in fluid communication via gastric port (131). (See Figures 25-36) Quinn further discloses a radio opaque marker coupled to the catheter at the second lumen opening. (See Paragraph 79) A check valve is taught to be disposed at the external end of the third lumen. (See Paragraph 95) The catheter is adapted for insertion into the patient via an oral-nasal cavity as is illustrated in figure 25.

6. Quinn fails to disclose a first lumen composed of a first elastomeric material and a second lumen composed of a second elastomeric material.

7. Cocanower teaches a nasogastric tube comprising a first lumen (42) composed of a first polymeric material and a second lumen (20) composed of a stiffer polymeric material. Where the first polymeric material is soft and flexible for patient comfort. (See Column 1 Lines 41-48) The second polymeric material is less flexible and easier to place. (See Column 2 Lines 39-45)

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Quinn with the teachings of Cocanower to provide an intubation device that is both flexible for patient comfort and easy to place.

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9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn ('099) in view of Cacnower ('167) in further view of Nelson ('530).

10. Quinn discloses a feeding catheter (6) that comprises a first lumen (138), a second lumen (137), and a third lumen (143). Said first lumen terminates at the insertion end of the feeding catheter. Said second and third lumen terminates between the insertion and the external end. Second lumen and third lumen are in fluid communication via gastric port (131). (See Figures 25-36) Quinn further discloses a radio opaque marker coupled to the catheter at the second lumen opening. (See Paragraph 79) A check valve is taught to be disposed at the external end of the third lumen. (See Paragraph 95) The catheter is adapted for insertion into the patient via an oral-nasal cavity as is illustrated in figure 25.

11. Quinn fails to disclose a first lumen composed of a first elastomeric material and a second lumen composed of a second elastomeric material.

12. Cocanower teaches a nasogastric tube comprising a first lumen (42) composed of a first polymeric material and a second lumen (20) composed of a stiffer polymeric material. Where the first polymeric material is soft and flexible for patient comfort. (See Column 1 Lines 41-48) The second polymeric material is less flexible and easier to place. (See Column 2 Lines 39-45)

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13. Both Quinn and Cocanower fail to disclose or teach a first lumen, second lumen and third lumen coterminating at the insertion end of the catheter.

14. Nelson teaches a gastrointestinal tube comprising four lumens that coterminate at the insertion end of the tube. (See Figure 4 and 5)

15. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the feeding catheter disclosed by Quinn with the teachings of Cocanower and Nelson to provide a tubular assembly comprising three lumens that coterminate at the insertion end.

16. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn ('099) in view of Cocanower ('167) in further view of Russo ('014).

17. Quinn discloses a feeding catheter (6) that comprises a first lumen (138), a second lumen (137), and a third lumen (143). Said first lumen terminates at the insertion end of the feeding catheter. Said second and third lumen terminates between the insertion and the external end. Second lumen and third lumen are in fluid communication via gastric port (131). (See Figures 25-36) Quinn further discloses a radio opaque marker coupled to the catheter at the second lumen opening. (See Paragraph 79) A check valve is taught to be disposed at the external end of the third

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lumen. (See Paragraph 95) The catheter is adapted for insertion into the patient via an oral-nasal cavity as is illustrated in figure 25.

18. Quinn fails to disclose a first lumen composed of a first elastomeric material and a second lumen composed of a second elastomeric material.

19. Cocanower teaches a nasogastric tube comprising a first lumen (42) composed of a first polymeric material and a second lumen (20) composed of a stiffer polymeric material. Where the first polymeric material is soft and flexible for patient comfort. (See Column 1 Lines 41-48) The second polymeric material is less flexible and easier to place. (See Column 2 Lines 39-45)

20. Both Quinn and Cocanower fail to disclose or teach a weighted cap member coupled to the insertion end of the catheter.

21. Russo teaches a weighted end cap (44) adapted to be inserted into a lumen at the insertion end of a gastrointestinal feeding tube. (See Figure 2)

22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of Quinn with the teachings of Cocanower and the end cap teachings of Russo to provide a weighted end cap that is adapted to be

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inserted into the terminal ends of coterminating lumens located at the insertion end of the catheter assembly.

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul B. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-6022. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4 pm.

24. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

25. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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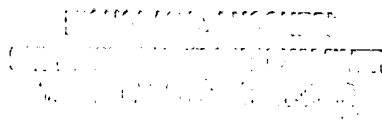
Paul B Smith

Examiner

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PBS

December 13, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.A faint, rectangular stamp or seal, likely an official mark of the examiner or the Patent and Trademark Office, located below the signature.